

CITY PAGES



IN

FILM



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CITY PAGES

December 21-27, 2016
VOLUME 36 | NUMBER 1881





9 FEATURE THE YEAR IN FILM

The most captivating, unsettling, hilarious, and questionable movies of 2016.

By Michael Nordine

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ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, Minnespolis, MS5401.

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THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

1.000

Number of jobs Twin Metals claims it will generate at its proposed copper mine near Ely

18,000

Number of Iron Range tourism jobs threatened by toxic pollution from the mine, which will have to be monitored for 500 years

33

Number of cars left to warm up that were stolen in St. Paul during the first two weeks of December

\$35,000

Value of instruments donated to Burnsville's Nicollet Middle School by '70s crooner Barry Manilow.

WELFARE QUEENS

AMAZON HAS become more than a leading cyber mall. It's also one of America's needlest corporate moochers.

Since January of last year, the internet goliath has gobbled up \$241 million in welfare nationwide, mostly to subsidize its distribution plants. In Kenosha, Wisconsin alone, the company wolfed down \$32 million in handouts.

This from a firm with \$107 billion in annual revenues

"What are the Russians doing to this poor lady?"

Reader Mike Rathburn responds to "Since Trump's election, I can't orgasm with my white partners," at citypages.com

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Garrison Keillor says **KEITH ELLISON**, 'lackluster

black Muslim,' is wrong

for DNC chair

African-American Jewish mom opens **BELLA NAVA** kosher bakery

GREEN MILL in Uptown Minneapolis will close after 38 years

University of Minnesota pulls ads from **BREITBART.COM**

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'DEAD POET'S SOCIETY'spoof (Video)

NO WORRIES, Mr. Pedophile

Report: 65 percent of Minnesota's felony child rapists won't see a day in prison

tanford University student Brock Turner's six-month jail sentence for raping an unconscious woman behind a dumpster stupefied America. But in Minnesota, these types of decisions are widespread when it comes to child victims of sexual assault and pornography. And the outrage isn't nearly as palpable.

A smattering of cases this year include a hotel manager ordered to probation and treatment for raping a 15-year-old employee; a Rochester man given six months in jail for molesting a young girl over two years; and a Stewartville quadruple-offender who got 90 days in jail for groping a 13-year-old.

Minnesota's sentencing guidelines make these lenient outcomes possible. The guidelines are like a rubric that weighs the seriousness of the crime and the defendant's criminal history to help judges make consistent sentencing decisions.

In sex crime cases against children, Minnesota's guidelines call for presumptive stayed sentences - probation instead of prison — for a whole block of crimes.

A repeat commercial pornographer who uses children to perform sex acts could get away with probation. A judge may have the additional option of jailing that defendant for up to one year, but that rarely happens, according to the National Association to Protect Children.

According to a recent report by the antichild-abuse organization, 65 percent of felony child rapists in Minnesota never spend a day in prison.



So why is Minnesota so lenient?

Co-founder Grier Weeks says Minnesota courts have embraced the philosophy that whereas it would be a travesty of justice to penalize adult rape with mere probation, those who act on a sexual attraction to children must be suffering complex mental illnesses in need of treatment.

"I don't even like to use the word 'pedophilia' because it medicalizes rape, really," Weeks says. "It's a terrible double standard."

Treatment has been proven to reduce recidivism. However, Weeks believes that the decline in rates of reoffending are due in part to victims' trauma. When a hurt child makes an outcry and the perpetrator is sent back into his life with only probationary obligations to attend therapy, that child may never cry out again, even if the abuse persists, he says.

The report, which was sent to lawmakers, includes a number of recommendations. Chief among them: mandatory minimum sentencing for adult offenders.

No legislators have indicated interest yet, Weeks says. -susan du

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Minnesota's Most Dangerous Professors

Introducing a disappointingly civil lineup of people who are supposed to be scary

he modern college is a tinderbox of radical leftism, against which we must all be vigilant.

This you may learn not by visiting one of said campuses (steer clear) or reading a newspaper (ditto) but in the

or reading a newspaper (ditto), but in the way people now attain their education: by visiting an obscure website.

The "Professor Watchlist," launched in November with the goal of cataloguing names and photographs of teachers with a "radical agenda," would not be out of place in 1970s Moscow or 1934 Berlin.

Its American strain of suspicion about "leftist propaganda" can be traced to Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Wrong though he was about his red-baiting, McCarthy was at least living in a bifurcated world with a real, hostile enemy.

These modern paranoids are fighting a lesser threat: the possibility that someone might get their feelings hurt or — even scarier — develop more feelings by age 21 than they had at 16. A review of the four Minnesotans on the list finds they are disappointingly unfrightening.

The most famous was already being watched... by the people who give out literary trophies. In 2015, Macalester English professor Marlon James won the prestigious Man Booker Prize, Britain's equivalent to the Pulitzer.

To the watchlist boys, he's a turncoat. They cite a talk James gave at a literary festival (suspicious!) in France (guilty!). He's quoted saying America has a "third world" police force that practices "statesponsored violence." James was talking about police shootings of civilians "without consequences."

James doesn't hate police. Both his parents were cops in his native Jamaica. He just thinks it's fair to expect more.

That same cop dad taught James to love Shakespeare; the two used to "duel" with soliloquies over glasses of rum. Read enough of that stuff and you'll start thinking scary thoughts, like not all who commit bad acts are bad men, and that not all sheriffs (or kings) command respect.

A sharp-tongued wordsmith is one thing. But a scientist? In 2014, University of Minnesota-Morris professor Peter Myers took one look at a new right-wing student newspaper on campus and detested what he saw. Its inaugural issue was about "black privilege," and featured a photo of Trayvon Martin lying dead in the street. He submitted a succinct letter to the editor via Twitter: "Fuck off and die."

As a biology professor specializing on the cellular level, Myers says politics don't come up in his classroom. Cancer doesn't care who you voted for — even if the dunce cutting stem cell research funding does.

Teaching curiously hot topics like evolution or climate change isn't politically correct. It's scientifically correct. "On these issues on which evidence is very clear, one party has gone all gung ho for those issues," Myers says. "That's kind of a problem for us."

There's more room for debate in Joe Bendickson's Native Americans in Minnesota class at the University of Minnesota. But not enough for one John Mickley, a former student who leaked the class final to a right-wing blog. Bendickson asked students to take the perspective of a Dakota or Ojibwe person, and make arguments on topics like "Indian mascots should be banned from sports."

Mickley complained the assignment robbed him of "free thought." And that free thought was particularly precious: He went on to become president of a climate change-denying student group.

Bendickson is not trying to indoctrinate anyone. His curriculum covers the era when Native kids were forced to cut their hair, forget their language, and convert to Christianity in white boarding schools.

"I think we need to do more listening and less blacklisting," he says.

Barbara Gorski's course could disturb the watchlist guys by its very title: "Business Ethics." You had them at "business," Barbara. You lost them at "ethics."

The St. Thomas professor takes her listing on this proto-fascist website seriously. "That's my Linkedin photo they're



Mike Mullen

using," she says. "It's years old — and it's so blurry!"

Gorski's "sin" was telling students they were privileged to be at St. Thomas, and encouraged them to find ways to give back to those less fortunate. One student objected. If this makes Gorski a radical, at a school with a mission to create "morally responsible leaders" who "advance the common good," wait till that student hears about the teachings of Jesus.

Gorski's liberal, but she's no bully: The morning after this year's election, she congratulated staff she knew were rooting for Donald Trump. As for the watchlist, she says she's getting emails now from around the country — from supporters. One asked if she had a favorite charity they could donate to.

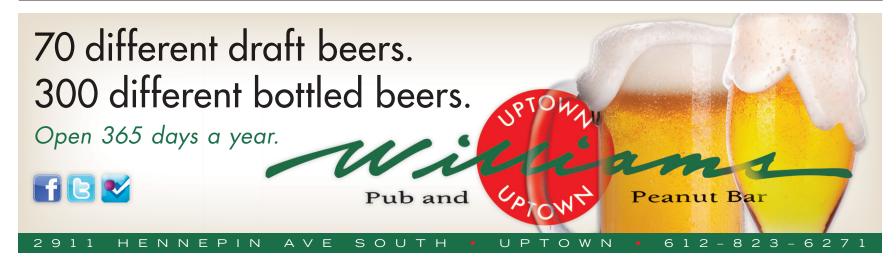
"The responses I'm getting from people are so warm. I do find myself chuckling and thinking, "This probably isn't the intent of the people who started this website."

On the contrary, Barbara. You've fallen right into their trap!

Now give up the names of these "warm" and charitable people. Sounds like the watchboys need to start another list. •

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The most captivating, unsettling, hilarious, and questionable movies of 2016

BY MICHAEL NORDINE



he good did not outweigh the bad in 2016, whether onscreen or off. But trying times only make art and escapism more important, and a great many movies helped make this annus horribilis more tolerable — at least in the time between the lights going down and the final credits rolling.

As year-end lists are published and award nominations announced, live deliciously and take a moment to consider some of the more unusual achievements of the year.



Part of what makes the year's best films — *The Lobster, The Handmaiden,* and *Manchester by the Sea* — so entrancing is the way in which each of them nimbly subverts expectations. *The Lobster,* for instance, stars Colin Farrell as a newly single man who gets sent to a hotel where, should he fail to fall in love within 45 days, he'll be turned into an animal of his choos-

ing. (He arrives with his dog, who used to be his brother.) Such is the plight of all singletons in this world, and the film that grows out of that off-kilter premise is dark and disturbing, yes, but also curiously romantic and insightful. Farrell does eventually meet someone (Rachel Weisz, aka the Nearsighted Woman), and the final dilemma he's faced with proves that love may in fact be blind.



On the opposite end of the spectrum is *Mother's Day*, the third in a loose trilogy of ensemble rom-coms revolving around increasingly unromantic holidays. (*Valentine's Day*? Yes, obviously. *New Year's Eve*? Sure, okay. *Mother's Day*? Wait, why?) Set in the suburbs of Atlanta but featuring nothing distinguishing about that city, the film is neither funny nor romantic — at least not until the blooper reel, when the likes of Julia Roberts, Jason Sudeikis, and Jennifer

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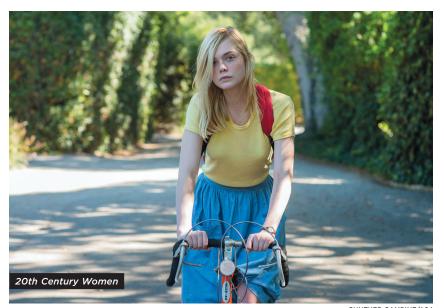
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Aniston go off-script and actually elicit a few laughs.

"It Takes a Village" Award for Best Non-Nuclear Family

Speaking of mothers, 2016 will see at least one worthy ode to them: Mike Mills' **20th Century Women**, the writer/director's first film since he explored the father/son dynamic in *Beginners*. Annette Bening stars as a modern matriarch circa 1979, doing her utmost to raise her teenage son into a man as a single mother. It's a group effort that also includes Greta Gerwig and Billy Crudup as two lodgers in her boarding house and Elle Fanning as the object of her kid's affections. This is a winsome, lived-in tribute to the bonds we form through both blood and necessity.

Most Authentic Coming-of-Age Drama

We haven't seen much of Hailee Steinfeld since she received an Oscar nomination for her auspicious debut in the Coen Brothers' remake of *True Grit*. That makes *The Edge of Seventeen* welcome on two fronts: In addition to being another showcase for its talented lead, Kelly Fremon Craig's

directorial debut is also an exception to the stifling rules established by most high school movies: It's about a girl, for one, and features none of the reductive characterizations we've grown to reluctantly expect of such fare. Steinfeld plays well against her peers, but her scenes opposite Woody Harrelson (as the teacher she both annoys and endears herself to) are where *The Edge of Seventeen* most reveals itself as something worth celebrating.

Least Obnoxious Franchise

There's no reason for the *Purge* movies to be as decent as they are, but if the last couple months have taught us anything it's that basic competency is worth celebrating. The latest in this anarchic, dystopian series was July's aptly titled *Election Year*, whose vision of a near-future in which all crime is legal for 12 hours per annum seems a lot less outlandish now than it did when we were first introduced to Purge Night three years ago.

Best Secret Sequel

In the age of hype, constant casting updates, and five-film franchises planned years in advance, there's a real value in genuine surprise. That's something few do better than *Lost* maestro J.J. Abrams, who most recently opened his mystery box to reveal *10 Cloverfield Lane*. The film didn't actually become a spiritual successor to *Cloverfield* until late in production — it



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was based on a script called *The Cellar*—so it makes sense that John Goodman's paranoid survivalist ends up being more frightening than the city-sized monster he's hiding from. If the "under promise, over deliver" approach were more common among tentpole fare, going to the multiplex between May and August would probably be a lot more enjoyable.

Bummers of the Summer

This summer, for instance, saw two sequels-come-lately that fell far short of expectations: *Jason Bourne* and *Independence Day: Resurgence*. There was never any reason to get excited for, say, *Now You See Me 2*, but these two sequels actually had the strength of genuinely good movies behind them — a legacy they both failed to live up to.

Best Summer Movie

Reboots and sequels like those two have increasingly been the norm during the summer months, but this year saw an especially uninspired crop. One unexpected exception to that rule was *The Shallows*, a straight-to-the-point tale of man against nature in which man is a woman and nature is the most imposing shark this side of *Jaws*. As she did in *The Age of Adaline* last year, Blake Lively proves an exceptional leading lady in what's effectively a solo performance (save for a friendly seabird she named Steven Seagull, who would easily be the year's best supporting animal were it not for our next honoree).

Best Supporting Animal

Worthwhile horror movies are a rarity, and each one feels like a gift from on high — or, perhaps more likely, somewhere down below. That was certainly true of *The Witch*, whose most memorable character wasn't even human: Black Phillip, a potentially

evil goat looked upon warily by the puritan patriarch of Robert Eggers' folkloric tale set in 17th-century New England. The children sing creepy songs about him, the parents wonder what's behind his gaze, and Black Phillip himself offers us all a chance to "live deliciously." That might be a deal with the devil, but it beats the alternative in this unsettling vision of a past we've yet to fully move on from.

Liveliest Corpse

Daniel Radcliffe has made some bold choices since the *Harry Potter* days, a trend that reached its unnatural conclusion with this year's *Swiss Army Man* — a Sundance standout in which the former Boy Who Lived plays a corpse who washes up on a desert island. Manny, as he's known, announces that he may still be alive to the island's sole inhabitant by breaking wind loudly and repeatedly. It's as sophomoric as it is surreal, ditto the film as a whole.

Best No Country for Old Men Ripoff

Hell or High Water is a taut, effective thriller, and further proof that Taylor Sheridan (who also wrote Sicario and is set to make his directorial debut next year) is a screenwriter to be admired. It also bears more than a few similarities to another Texas-set drama in which there are no clean getaways and certain events, once set in motion, must be carried out to their logical conclusion. There's no Anton Chigurh to contend with this time around, but there are more than a few down-home folks getting in over their heads and living to regret it.

Feel-Bad Movie of the Year

Nicolas Winding Refn has done a hell of a job erasing all the goodwill he inspired with *Drive* five years ago, but both *Only God Forgives* and this year's *The Neon Demon*

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are better than they tend to get credit for. The Danish auteur's attention to aesthetic detail remains a marvel, though it does at times come at the expense of narrative coherence; like some of the models in this candy-coated nightmare, The Neon Demon, set in the demoralizing fashion (under)world of Los Angeles, is easy on the eyes and a little dead inside. It may not be advisable to replicate that formula too often, but Refn has almost perfected it.

Highest Insight-to-Pretension Ratio

Richard Linklater continues to astound, not least because it never feels like he's even trying to. After the massive undertaking that was Boyhood - a film that took 12 years to make and almost as long to watch, though every minute was worth it – he returned this year with, of all things, a spiritual sequel to Dazed and Confused. The result was, like most of Linklater's relaxed filmography, casually profound: Everybody Wants Some!! looks at the first day of college with both in-the-moment joy and the kind of wisdom that only hindsight and experience can instill. The dog days of youth may have come and gone, but Linklater has preserved them on celluloid.

Most Painful Declaration of Love

Here's all you need to know about Lily Gladstone's performance in Certain Women: It's the best in a movie led by Laura Dern, Michelle Williams, and Kristen Stewart. Not that the central trio isn't great in Kelly Reichardt's sparse adaptation of a short-story collection by Maile Melov. But newcomer Gladstone, with her lowkey charm and quiet expressiveness, is most at home in the film's rural Montana setting. She plays a ranch hand who takes a liking to an out-of-towner played by Stewart, eventually making a lonely,

hours-long drive to find the object of her affections and... not have any idea what to do once she's found her. It's a devastating scene, and almost singlehandedly elevates Certain Women from memorable to unforgettable.

Longest Take

Bi Gan's Kaili Blues is one of the most pleasingly strange films in recent memory, never more so than during a virtuosic 41-minute tracking shot that surveys the entirety of a Chinese village and features several characters who long ago departed this mortal coil. The first-time filmmaker is never flashy (nor, for that matter, is cinematographer Wang Tianxing). Bi merges timelines and moves forward in a vaguely Kafkaesque fashion, opting for a dreamlike playfulness rather than overt showmanship. The long take in question is so fluid and immersive that, for much of it, you'll forget that what you're watching is a technical marvel because you're so focused on the world it's allowing you to see.

Best Movie Starring Isabelle Huppert

With roles in four different movies -Louder Than Bombs, Valley of Love, Elle, and Things to Come - Isabelle Huppert achieved her status as the consensus choice for Best Actress in the World this year. Though not the most acclaimed, Valley of Love was secretly the best of these. It finds the performer opposite another icon of French cinema, Gerard Depardieu (with whom she's twice shared the screen) as two grieving parents who travel to Death Valley in the hopes that their son will make good on a most unusual promise he made in his suicide note: showing up in a particular place at a particular time despite being dead. That intriguing setup results in one of the most affecting



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

endings of 2016, the kind that feels both otherworldly and deeply human.

Most Mirthless Line Reading

When that Han Solo spinoff makes a bona fide movie star of Alden Ehrenreich, don't forget that he first announced himself to the world by playing a dunderheaded actor who flubs the line "Would that it were so simple" in the Coen Brothers' *Hail, Caesar!*. That film is one of two old-school joys released this year, the other being Robert Zemeckis' *Allied*. It's one of those sequences that goes on for so long it momentarily ceases to be funny before somehow becoming even more hilarious.

Best Unofficial True Detective Sequel

Genre films have largely been a letdown on this side of the Pacific of late, with most worthy police procedurals unspooling on the small screen. In Korea, though, one truly out-there offering reigned supreme to the tune of more than \$50 million at the box office: *The Wailing*, a supernatural detective story with enough occult oddity to convince you that *True Detective* may not be dead after all. Lasting 156 minutes and rarely lagging during that imposing runtime, Na Hong-jin's film is genuinely too strange to accurately describe, but know this: The Gollum-like hermit living in the woods is the least of your worries.

Most Chilling Biopic About a Fictional Dictator

Brady Corbet has been a mainstay of the arthouse world for years now, but it's always been in front of the camera. That changed this year with *The Childhood of a Leader*, the actor-turned-filmmaker's loose adaptation of a Jean-Paul Sartre novella that plays out like *The Omen*. Only here,

there's a brief coda suggesting that the demon seed eventually becomes a despot in post-WWII Europe. Considering how the presidential election turned out, it may be more prescient than even Corbet intended.

"Quit Making Movies During Election Years" Award

Michael Moore gets a lot of flack, some of it justified, but credit where it's due: Dude called it when it came to Rust Belt voters supporting Donald Trump. That said, he's also 0 for 2 when it comes to releasing politically charged documentaries on the eve of important elections: Fahrenheit 9/11 didn't stop Bush from getting reelected, and Michael Moore in TrumpLand didn't stop Trump from falling upward into the presidency. Maybe he can go for reverse psychology in 2020 and make a film about how evil the Democratic nominee is?

Most Ambiguous Faith-Based Drama

In the age of *God's Not Dead* and *Miracles from Heaven*, simply hearing the words "faith-based drama" can elicit a negative reaction among all but the most ardent devotees. It doesn't have to be that way, of course, and for proof one need look no further than Martin Scorsese's *Silence*. Long in the making and the tonal opposite of *The Wolf of Wall Street*, its faith is hard-won and well worth examining.

Norma Desmond Award

"We didn't need dialogue," Norma Desmond (Gloria Swanson) says of the silent era in *Sunset Boulevard*. "We had faces!" We have them now too, thankfully, and none told a more moving story this year than Natalie Portman in *Jackie* and Casey Affleck in *Manchester by the Sea*. That both









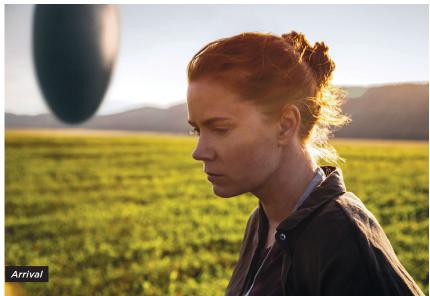
QUOTE, ORDER TRACK AND PAY IN APP











PARAMOUNT

films are explorations of the mourning process isn't a coincidence — the loss of a loved one inspires the most wrenching of expressions. *Manchester* certainly has more dialogue than *Jackie*, but in both we see that while debilitating grief is lifealtering it isn't necessarily life-ending.

Most Transcendent Movie About the Truth and Beauty of the Universe

Were I allowed to curate a new Netflix category, it would have to be Movies About the Truth and Beauty of the Universe. Few movies fall under that rarefied umbrella, but *Arrival* certainly does. Though it presents itself as a sci-fi picture about aliens coming to Earth for potentially alarming reasons, Denis Villeneuve's latest is at heart a story of connection, communication, and grief. Amy Adams does some of her finest work to date as the avatar of all three of those big ideas, a space-age love song unto herself.

Best Movie
About a Witch

The Witch.

Worst Movie
About a Witch

Blair Witch.

Funniest Tearjerker

Manchester by the Sea is, by most definitions, the most wrenching film of the year. It might also be the funniest — no small feat, considering the subject matter. Casey Affleck's character loses a brother, yes, but newcomer Lucas Hedges plays a 16-year-old who's just lost his father. It must be true what they say about laughter being the best medicine, or at least an effective

defense mechanism, as the young man is a font of clever retorts and pithy one-liners. Affleck — who, it must be noted, delivers the most powerful performance of 2016 — is an excellent straight man, and even has a few zingers of his own when he isn't overwhelmed by grief (which, to be fair, is most of the time).

Most Funereal Score

Other than Natalie Portman's facial expressions, the most powerful element of *Jackie* is Mica Levi's haunting score. The biopic marks her sophomore effort as film composer (the first being *Under the Skin*), and it's easily the darkest (and best) soundtrack of the year — no easy feat, considering Scott Walker's excellent work on *The Childhood of a Leader* and Gesaffelstein's on *Disorder*. Chilean director Pablo Larraín, in his English-language debut, wisely moves Levi's work to the fore and lets it do the talking when his devastated heroine can't find the words.

Most Joyful Musical Cue

Andrea Arnold uses music to the opposite effect in *American Honey*, contrasting the at times desperate road trip with a thumping soundtrack made up of hip-hop and pop. This is never more joyful than when, early on, two people lock eyes in Walmart as Rihanna's "We Found Love" blares over the loudspeakers — prompting Shia LaBeouf's character to hop on the checkout counter and dance until security removes him from the premises. This may not be such a hopeless place after all.

Best Unintentional Double Feature

In 1974, reporter Christine Chubbuck committed suicide live on air. In 2016,

two different movies about her premiered at Sundance: Robert Greene's *Kate Plays Christine* and Antonio Campos' *Christine*. In hindsight, what's most surprising is that it took this long for someone to make a film about such a headline-worthy tragedy. These two — a quasi-documentary with a twist and a more conventional biopic, respectively — work better in tandem than they do in opposition, like two halves of a whole that may never feel complete.

Best Double Feature By the Same Director

Between 1973 and 2011, Terrence Malick directed just five movies. He's made three more since then, including two that came out this year: *Knight of Cups* and *Voyage of Time*. They bear little resemblance on the surface, as one is a drama about a disaffected screenwriter (Christian Bale) living in L.A. and the other is an IMAX documentary about the birth of the universe. But in both we see Malick's uniquely humanist worldview expressed as only he can.

Most Obscure Sports Movie

As someone who writes about movies for a living, I tend to have a pretty good grasp on even the most rarefied indies. But even I was barely aware that *The Phenom* existed until after it had come and gone from theaters, which is unfortunate: Noah Buschel's film, which stars Paul Giamatti and Ethan Hawke opposite Johnny Simmons, is a cerebral take on the rocky transition from the minors to the majors. As much time is spent in a shrink's office as on the baseball diamond, and Hawke

breathes new life into the familiar archetype of an overbearing father pressuring his son to achieve what he couldn't. Watch it online for less than the cost of peanuts and Cracker Jack.

Least Affected Prestige Picture

Here's a setup straight out of awards season for you: a based-on-a-true-story account of the interracial couple whose marriage is responsible for the Supreme Court ruling that struck down miscegenation laws as unconstitutional. But Jeff Nichols' *Loving* spends a grand total of five minutes in the courtroom and is far less concerned with the historical than it is with the everyday beauty of the couple in question. They're embodied here by Joel Edgerton and a wonderful Ruth Negga, whose eyes offer more history than any straight reenactment ever could.

Sweetest Sapphic Romance

Over the course of 144 minutes, The Handmaiden vacillates between romance, conspiracy, torture, and then back again. It's a sordid, steamy tale set in Japaneseoccupied Korea circa the 1930s, yet what's most remarkable about Park Chan-wook's latest is that it mostly lingers in the mind as a moving love story between two women who never should have even been in the same room together. That isn't an unfamiliar premise, of course, but every narrative twist and turn here of which there are many - feels wholly original. Love may not have conquered all in 2016, but at least it lived to see another year. 🖪













SUSHI REDO

PinKU rethinks and revolutionizes the raw fish restaurant



ALMA GUZMAN

BY MECCA BOS

ou know PinKU is different as soon as you walk in the door.
John Sugimura, tall, booming of voice, and ebullient of spirit, instantly fills up all 960 square feet of this northeast Minneapolis sushi joint. He comes out from behind the counter to greet you, to go over the menu, together, with you.

It's just one of the many ways in which barriers fall away at this 32-seat gamechanger.

PinKU means "pink" in Japanese, and it's the only Japanese word you'll find here. Sugimura knew that by including Japanese on the menu, he'd only be setting up more obstacles to understanding and appreciating the cuisine he loves.

"Let's not talk about maguro. Let's just talk about tuna," he says. He's hell bent on stripping away any pretense at PinKU, including the word "sushi," which can carry too many connotations of expense, esoterica, and occasion. He calls this place "street," and it's as close as you'll get around here to the street food of Japan.

"You shouldn't have to balance your checkbook before going out to eat," he adds. Affordability is one of the other imperatives of his first restaurant, which he co-owns with partner Xiaoteng Huang, who prefers to go by his nickname, "X."

The duo are of one mind when it comes to the restaurant's concept, but even X was confused about the name. "Why are we calling it pink?" he asked Sugimura.

"If you start looking up 'pink' in Japanese, you start getting peace, democracy, less aggressiveness," he responded. "PinKU is about human contact."

This is a second act for Sugimura, who spent the majority of his adult life working in human services at Head Start and in politics under Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton. He feels strongly about the restaurant being

an extension of that human service.

Sugimura's mother passed away "a long time ago" from cancer, and he knew he was going to do something really interesting with the money he received after her death. "Putting all my stuff in storage and travelling around Spain for three months, that's just not me," he said.

Instead, he did everything he could to educate himself about sushi, including graduating from the Sushi Institue of America. He was instructing his own culinary classes when he was approached by a student, X, who wanted to open a more approachable, affordable, friendly sushi restaurant. The two went on a research mission, and finding no other restaurants like the one they envisioned, they knew they had to do it.

So they did it.

After Sugimura's big personality, the second thing you'll notice is the menu. Listing about 10 items, plus the occasional

PINKU

20 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis 612-584-3167 pinkujapanese.com

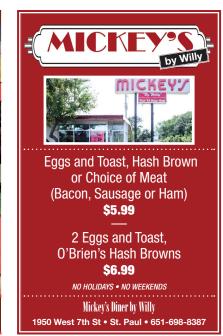
special, it hangs on the wall in elegant, etched wooden planks. The partners knew that they wanted a "low technology" menu. Screens or anything high-tech would send the wrong message. "It would be too shiny. Too pretty," says Sugimura. (Although the PinKU menu happens to be one of the prettiest anywhere, a work of art unto itself.)

Next, you'll notice the price points, and you might wonder if someone has made a mistake when you see that everything hovers in the \$4 to \$8 range. But don't bother asking: Those are the prices. Accessibility, remember?

In keeping with the other low barriers to entry, the menu here is easy to read, it's easy to understand, and you know just what you're getting. And what you're getting is

















Seared salmon on rice and crispy pot stickers

what the everyday consumer wants when they go for sushi in America: salmon, tuna, and shrimp.

Salmon is readily available in Minnesota in the winter. Why fight that? They serve three preparations of it: lightly seared on a crispy rice cake; lightly seared on rice with a little avocado, radish, and green onion, like a freewheeling salad; and lightly seared in the sushi roll you know and love.

Why three preparations, and why always lightly seared? In order to please all people, and because the texture is approachable. It makes people feel safe. Here there's no "omakase" (chef's choice) to contend with. You're going to get exactly what you want, and nothing you don't.

After your salmon, order some jumbo crispy shrimp with rice, served three to an order. They've been tenderized to reduce any rubberiness, they've been "washed" in rice wine vinegar and salt to disappear any whiff of fishiness, and they've been tossed in potato starch and fried, so they're hot, crisp as chips, and gluten-free. They're \$6.50 an order, and people go nuts for them, sometimes getting three orders all to themselves, because at PinKU, you can do whatever you want.

"This is my tater tot hot dish," says Sugimura. He serves it at home by the pound, family-style, which is how he knew it would be a surefire winner.

The spicy tuna on crispy rice is another dish he knows a thing or two about because he estimates that he served roughly 35,000 pieces before he ever threw open the doors to his restaurant. He'd work catering gigs and people would order 10 pieces each. He made them all night long because he likes giving people what they want.

These little addictions are the spicy tuna roll vou know and love but so much better. First, he takes today's fresh tuna (your spicy tuna roll is probably scrap that's been collected over the past few days, sorry) and scrapes it, tartare style. Then, instead of the industry standard of Sriracha and Kewpie mayo for dressing, he uses 13 fresh ingredients, including sesame, chile, miso, and green onion, to give it complexity, zing, and depth.

Then, instead of a regular rice pad, his pads are crisped up, like fried rice. "I like fancy fried rice, I like takeout fried rice, I like bad fried rice," says Sugimura. And now everybody gets to have his take on it.

So, if you've been paying attention, you can have an order of that shrimp, an order of this tuna, and salmon your way, and you're only up to a grand total of about \$18. Why not order some crispy pot stickers, easily some of the best in town, seared so hard on one side they crunch like autumn leaves? A dozen goes for \$9, so now you're sharing with your companions, and not jealously guarding your plate like it's piled with fine jewels. You've still barely broken \$30.

The fact that your order arrives in minutes, on a gleaming silver set-up that's one part bento box and one part cafeteria tray, only punctuates the egalitarian message. What could be more approachable than a cafeteria

If all of this sounds a little too Americanized, make no mistake. Sugimura identifies first and foremost as a Japanese man, and he just returned from a tour of Kyoto and Tokyo, where he went in part to check himself. He returned fortified.

"At no time was there any confusion about my blurring lines of integrity. Would my grandmother be proud? Absolutely. Absolutely," he says.

PinKU is Japanese, it's American, it's a place of common ground. Go, and let Sugimura walk around the counter to say, "Arigatou gozaimasu!"

They're likely the only Japanese words you'll hear at PinKU.

In short, they mean: "Thank you, very much, for coming."



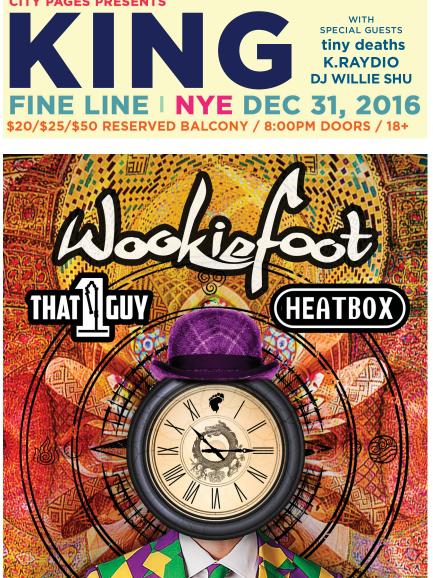












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THURSDAY Bare bums and sugarplums at Lab Theater P. 27 FRIDAY Dance to Beyoncé tunes for hours P. 28 SATURDAY Jewbilee returns to 7th St. Entry P. 31



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

WEDNESDAY 12.21

PARTY

NORTHEAST FARMERS MARKET WINTER MARKET

SOLAR ARTS BY CHOWGIRLS

Once a month this winter, local food vendors and makers will convene on the third floor of the Solar Arts building for a tasty party filled with festivities. Attendees include pickling purveyors like GYST; sweets schillers such as Rebel Donut Bar, Bee Happy Honey, and Groveland Confections; and meaty delights from Buffalo by Bike and Grillin' Meats. Sample Minnesota-made marshmallows, cheese, and macarons. Or shop non-edibles like jewelry, beauty salves, and soap. The beer will be plentiful, and there will be games and activities for kids. If you have a foodie on your holiday shopping list, you'll find plenty to consider gifting here. The event takes place every third

Wednesday through March. 4 to 7 p.m. Free. 711 15th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-203-0786. **Through March 15, 2017** –JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY MIKE BRODY

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY Mike Brody is a Twin Cities comedy OG, having moved to Minnesota and started his career all the way back in Y2K. Since that time, he has grown into one of the most consistently funny performers in town, with a relentless local and national touring schedule. In 2015, he was named City Pages' Best Local Comedian, and he has performed all over, alongside some of the biggest names in comedy. In addition to being funny onstage, Brody, a die-hard Timberwolves fan, became an internet sensation a couple of years ago with his Kevin Love jersey-burning video that landed him everywhere from ESPN to USA Today. He genuinely feels like a guy you would want to hang out

with offstage, which is yet another key to his longevity both from a performing standpoint, and for being such a tremendous ambassador for Minnesota comedy. You've got four chances to see him this week before he hits the road again. 18+; 21+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday. \$13-\$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Friday**—PATRICK STRAIT

WINTER SOLSTICE

CELEBRATION

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Though aspects of the astronomical event would eventually be adopted as Christmas traditions, the Winter Solstice is still worthy of its own ceremonies, particularly to those living in the Nordic lands where sunshine can be a rare visitor during the winter months. Nodding to Minnesotans of Nordic descent, the

American Swedish Institute is once again hosting its low-key Winter Solstice Celebration. Visitors will be able to tour the Turnblad Mansion, taking in the exhibition of "Nordic Holidays: Celebrations of Light," featuring seasonally decorated rooms honoring Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway. Acknowledging the region's Jewish heritage, a special space has also been designed to represent Hanukkah. In addition, visitors are welcome to contemplate the Institute's other ongoing exhibitions (including an aurora borealis photography compilation by Jim Brandenburg and an exquisite collection of decorative Christmas plates spanning 1895 to the present). Stepping outside, guests can wander the winter courtyards or warm themselves at a roaring bonfire with a glass of glögg, the Swedish mulled wine being served up by the FIKA café as just one of the many seasonal treats prepared for the celebration. 5 to 8 p.m. Free with museum admission (\$5-\$10). 2600 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907. -BRAD RICHASON

COMEDY

NATE ABSHIRE

ACME COMEDY CO.

Nate Abshire began his career at the Acme Comedy Co. He headlines at the club for the first time this week. "It's strange going that long between when you start trying to do it - and not even doing it well, but doing the real job - to closing the show. The real job is to be the whole show." He tries to juxtapose comedians and musicians: "People in bands practice at home for 10 years," he says, "then you're in a band." He then realizes something. "Actually, I have no clue how music works, I just assumed. My perception of people who play guitar is they struggle to get through their day and through all of the sex that people want to have with them. That's my perception of what it's like to be able to play guitar." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 10:30 p.m. Friday. \$15-\$18, 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Through Friday -P.F. WILSON

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 ▶



THE MAINROOM

BEST CONCERT VENUE, BEST CONCERT, BEST CONCERT (TOURING), BEST CLUB DJ - City Pages 2016



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

TRANSMISSION PRESENTS

A DAVID BOWIE CELEBRATION FT. DJ JAKE RUDH

\$8/\$10/8PM/18+

DASHBOARD

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS

POLICA

HERO

IRSDAY, DECEMBER 29 THE JAYHAWKS
TWO HARBORS
\$32.50/\$35 DAY OF SHOW
7:30PM/18+

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

THE KLITUATION
FT. DJ'S KEEZY
SHANNON BLOWTORCH
SOPHIA ERIS
SARAH WHITE
AND MANY MORE
\$10/\$12/9:30PM/18+ **SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

JANIS

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE & MUSIC OF JANIS JOPLIN \$18/\$20/7PM/18+

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 FIRST AVENUE'S
NEW YEAR'S EVE
DANCETERIA FT.
PLAIN OLE BILL & LAST WORD OF GET CRYPHY ANDTHATSBREON ROY FREEDOM & DJ SMITTY HOSTED BY IAN RANS \$5/\$10/\$20/8PM/18+

89.3 THE CURRENT, GO 95.3 AND SURLY BREWING PRESENT WEBSTERX
AIR CREDITS
(THE HOOD INTERNET
X SHOWYOUSUCK) **NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLES**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS

THE CURRENT'S

12TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
HALEY BONAR
THE LEMON TWIGS
SAM ROBERTS
MONICA LAPLENTE

AND MORE \$20/7PM/18+

DEAD MAN

WINTER



IX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

THE CURRENT'S

12TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

JEREMY MESSERSMITH

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENT FIRST AVENUE'S BEST NEW BANDS OF 2016 COLIN CAMPBELL & THE SHACKLETONS, FRAEA, LADY MIDNIGHT, SLEEPING JESUS, TABAH, TONY PEACHKA, AND MORE \$7/\$10/7PM/18+ **WRESTLEPALOOZA** DILLINGER FOUR \$20/\$30/6PM/18+



FRIDAY, JANUARY 13















CHERUB \$20/\$25/8PM/18+

TOVE LO:

LADY WOOD TOUR











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UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 City Pages presents KING w/ TINY DEATHS, K.RAYDIO, DJ WILLIE SHU at FINE LINE \$20/\$25/\$50 RESERVED BALCONY 8PM/18+



CRACKER AND CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN at FINE LINE \$20/7:30PM/18+



, JANUARY 25 BEAR'S DEN at FINE LINE \$18/\$20/7PM/18+



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 **WAX TAILOR** w/L'ORANGE at FINE LINE \$15/\$18/8PM/18+



First Avenue, Jam, and 89.3 The Current present AN EVENING WITH DAWES at STATE THEATRE \$36/7PM/ALL AGES



Y. FEBRUARY 8 **SAFETYSUIT** w/ ROYAL TEETH
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
7PM/18+



CLOUD NOTHINGS



at FINE LINE \$16/\$18/\$30 RESERVED BALCONY



89.3 The Current presents
RUN THE JEWELS
RUN THE WORLD TOUR
W/ THE GASLAMP KILLER,
SPARK MASTER TAPE, CUZ
at MYTH NIGHTCLUB
\$30/\$35/7PM/ALL AGES



AUSTRA

w/ THE RANGE

at TRIPLE ROCK \$16/\$18/8PM/21+

LILY & MADELEINE at Bryant Lake Bowl DEAD MAN WINTER w/ GLEN'S NEIGHBOR at Pizza Luce (Duluth, MN)

NOSLEEP PODCAST at The Cedar

THUNDERCAT at Fine Line

PROF w/ FINDING NOVYON, METASOTA,
WILLIE WONKA at Clyde Iron Works (Duluth, MN)

THE JAPANESE HOUSE at Triple Rock **ELECTRIC GUEST** at Triple Rock

LOS CAMPESINOS! w/ CRYING at Triple Rock

TURF CLUB

FRSTAVENUE & 7th St entry

ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

2/25 LETTUCE - 'MT. CRUSHMORE' TOUR w/ THE RUSS LIQUID TEST 184

JAKE MILLER w/ MAX, SPENCER SUTHERLAND ALL AGES

THE GROWLERS: CITY CLUB SPRING TOUR 2017 18+

MAC SABBATH WITH METALACHI - THE 2017 MOCKSTROSITY TOUR W/ OKILLY DOKILLY, METALLAGHER 18+

RAILROAD EARTH - WINTER TOUR 2017 w/BILLY STRINGS 18+

3/03 & 04 LAKE STREET DIVE w/ JOEY DOSIK 18+

3/06 BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS 18+

VINCE STAPLES: THE LIFE AQUATIC TOUR

ANDREW MCMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS

GALACTIC - WINTER TOUR w/ THE HIP ABDUCTION 18+

THE ZOMBIES - 'ODESSEY AND ORACLE'
50TH ANNIVERSARY w/ DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION) 18+

MAYDAY PARADE - A LESSON IN ROMANTICS 10TH

7TH ST ENTRY

12/22 GIFT-RAPPED EPISODE THREE W/CRAM, ALEX FRECON,

12/24 JEWBILEE 2016 FT. HOLY MOLY, PLANET PLOOKEY, THE LONE

12/27 COLIN CAMPBELL & THE SHACKLETONS EP RELEASE w/ EARLY EYES, NEWSTRANGE, SPOOKY GHOST 18+ 12/28 THE POUR ORGANS, HOMEBREW, ANNEX PANDA,

12/29 CLAPS, REAL NUMBERS, POSH LOST, AND ZINA 18+

JEW AND THE PARTY CRASHERS, DAN ISRAEL, COMEDIANS DAN MOGOL, SIDNEY OXBOROUGH, AND ROBERT FONES, AND MORE 18+

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL JENSEN, NEON BLAQUE, FIVE SECOND RULE, DJ THE KRITICK 18+

12/23 FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US
FT. XIII ARROWS (RECORD RELEASE), THE CRASH BANDITS,

ANNIVERSARY TOUR w/ KNUCKLE PUCK, MILESTONES ALL AGES

PASSENGER W/ THE PAPER KITES ALL AGES

w/ ATLAS GENIUS, NIGHT RIOTS 18+

5/03 TESTAMENT W/ SEPULTURA, PRONG 18+

12/21 JAKE GUSTO w/ THE JONES DICKENS, SAM OG 18+

3/05 TCHAMI w/ MERCER 18+

HIPPO CAMPUS ALL AGES

COLD WAR KIDS 18+

w/ KILO KISH ALL AGES

SON VOLT 18+

FOXYGEN 18+

4/08 MARGO PRICE 18+

5/01 & 02 VULFPECK 18+

KICK, WAVY MAZE 18+

AND STREETLIGHT EYES 18+

3/09

3/12

3/15 3/16

3/18

3/21

3/23

3/24

3/29

4/02

4/17

4/19

4/20

- 12/21 PLAY FOR CHOICE A BENEFIT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD WITH LIVE IMPROV, MUSIC, SILENT AUCTION AND MORE 21+
- 12/22 ALICE WETTERLUND AND GUY BRANUM W/ BRANDI BROWN 27
- 12/27 FUCK 2016. FT. A ROAST OF 2016 WITH RANA MAY & DREW JANDA, DJ PAPER SLEEVES (SPINNING THE LEGENDS WE LOST THIS YEAR) 214
- 12/28 DEATH OF A LADIES MAN A TRIBUTE TO LEONARD COHEN FT. ANONYMOUS CHOIR, TABAH, J.E. SUNDE, DAN ISRAEL, BRENT COLBERT (OF THE AWFUL TRUTH) 21+
- 12/29 LAZYLIGHTNING420 FT. ERIK BERRY (TRAMPLED BY TURTLES)
 AND MARC GARTMAN (TWO MANY BANJOS) PERFORMING
 GRATEFUL DEAD'S 12/29/77 LIVE AT WINTERLAND 21+
- 12/30 IFFY w/ DIRTY FRAMES 21+
- 12/31 WU YEAR'S EVE: THE BIG WU W/FROGLEG 21+
- 1/04 ANDREW BRODER & PEOPLE RESIDENCY FOR MUSIC & ACTION 27

For show announcements, updates, set times, giveaways, and more

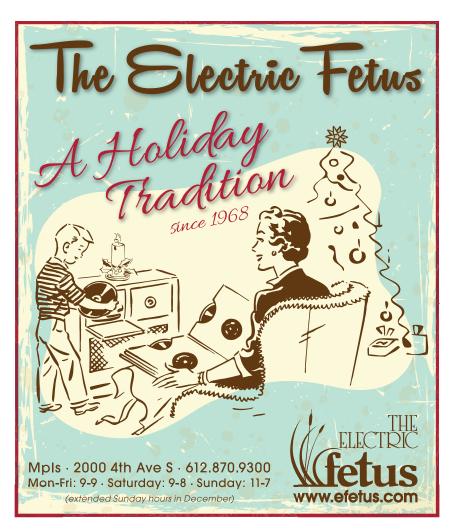








24 CITYPAGES.COM DECEMBER 21-27, 2016 DECEMBER 21-27, 2016 CITYPAGES.COM 25





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COURTESY OF UPTOWN TAVERN AND ROOFTOP

CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY ▶

HOLIDAY MAKE AND MINGLE: WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

SILVERWOOD PARK

To celebrate the solstice, Silverwood Park, a part of the Three Rivers Park District, is lighting up the night with a party that celebrates the winter stars. Visitors will be able to make constellation luminaries from clay, have some some fun with interactive light displays, and take a look at the night sky through a telescope. It's all a part of Silverwood's Make and Mingle quarterly event series, aimed at adults over 21. There won't be alcohol for purchase, but you can bring your own beer to sip by the fire while listening to music and munching on pudgy pies and s'mores. Embrace the winter and step out for some creative fun during the darkest time of the year. 21+. 6 to 8 p.m. \$12. 2500 County Rd. E W., St. Anthony; 763-694-7707. - SHEILA REGAN

BARHOPPING DARKEST DAY

UPTOWN TAVERN AND ROOFTOP

In honor of the darkest day of the year comes this special event at Uptown Tavern featuring the darkest of brews. For this evening, which starts at 3 p.m., the bar will line their 30 taps with bold black stouts. Limited beers from Surly, Central Waters, Clown Shoes, Fulton, and others will be staggered all night. Try some Castle Danger George Hunter Nitro, Deschutes Black Butte XXVIII, Green Flash Lustrous Frumento, or the Indeed Derailed Imperial Double Dangerous Chocolate Whiskey. With so many high-alcohol beers in one

room, making it 'til morning on the longest night of the year will be a feat in and of itself. 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free. 1400 Lagoon Ave., Minneapolis; 612-824-3333. **–LOREN GREEN**

THURSDAY 12.22

COMEDY

DAVID HARRIS

THE JOKE JOINT COMEDY CLUB

When initially contacted about doing an interview, magician David Harris did not answer City Pages. That was because we had the wrong magician David Harris. "I've gotten his stuff before," Harris laughs when asked about the other guy. "I've thought about changing my name, but I'm like, 'No, let him." The David Harris based in Minneapolis also does standup. "I've done it for so long that I don't really feel like changing my name. It's a whole big thing if you want to change your name." He still thinks about it from time to time, though. "I'll get requests for gigs for him, and they'll think I'm him. I'll think for a minute and then I'll say, 'I've got to send it to him.' I can imagine showing up at the gig and people saying, You look younger, and you're not the guy we thought that we saw before." Though he started as a magician, Harris became interested in comedy in college following his parents' divorce. "I took a comedy writing course in college from Garrison Keillor at the U of M. After my parents got divorced I was like, 'I've got to write some comedy here." The amount of magic in his set depends on whether he is headlining or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ▶



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1/28	LEOPRESENTS.COM The Suit 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR
2/1	
2/3-2/4	25th Annual Songs of Freedom - BOB MARLEY REMEMBERED
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PERFORMANCE

VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS: A BURLESOUE NUTCRACKER

While holiday fare tends to be produced with children in mind, that's not the case with this Nutcracker. This decidedly naughty production returns this week for its third year of bawdy fun. Choreographer Lily Verlaine and host Nadine DuBois have teamed up for a night of sparkling dance numbers, daring aerial arts, campy show tunes, and a healthy flash of skin. While these ladies and gents may be singing traditional tunes, they'll also be celebrating with a bit of subversion and a healthy dose of tongue in cheek. 8 p.m. daily through December 31 (no shows December



24-25); 2 p.m. January 1. \$35; \$50 VIP. 700 First St. N., Minneapolis; 612-333-3377. Through January 1, 2017 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ▶

featuring. "If I'm headlining, I'll do at least one or two pieces," he says. "But if it's a shorter set, I'll just do standup, because I want to build my set." 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. \$15. 801 Sibley Memorial Hwv., Lilvdale; 651-330-9078. Through Friday -P.F. WILSON

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Just because summer is long over doesn't mean you have to give up patio drinking. This Thursday, the Bachelor Farmer is going hardcore and keeping their beer garden happenings rolling. The outdoor evening (you're going to want to wear your heaviest winter gear tonight) will feature brews from Bauhaus. Choose from Sky-Five IPA or the Scottish-style dark ale Tallander. There will be a bonfire roaring, and s'mores will satisfy any sweet-tooth cravings. 21+. 5 to 10 p.m. Free. 50 Second Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-206-3920.

-JESSICA ARMBRUSTER FRIDAY 12.23

HOLIDAY LAST CALL: A HOLIDAY MARKET

FOOD BUILDING

So, you messed up and waited till the last minute to get your holiday gifts. Don't despair; while Target and Toys "R" Us are probably super picked

over, that doesn't mean you have to make do with gas station gifts just yet. Head over to the Food Building this Friday for a final shopping event where you'll have a plethora of gift options. Shop for jewelry from local designers like Larissa Loden and Everythine, or beauty treats from the Elixery and Nell's Remedies. Or give the gift of food, as meat, cheese, baked goods, and other edibles will be for sale. You won't even have to head home to wrap gifts, as there will be stations set up for shoppers to use. Wash it all down with a beer, cocktail. or glass of wine. You earned it, mighty procrastinator. 3 to 9 p.m. Free. 1401 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-545-5555. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

PARTY FLIP PHONE PRESENTS: BEY BALL

It's the Friday before Christmas Eve. Time to party for the weekend before family obligations kick in. At First Avenue, Flip Phone will be spreading joy by spinning Beyoncé tunes from days of yore and right now. DJ Fancy Restaurant will be slaving with a fivehour, all-Beyoncé set that will take vou from "Bootvlicious" to "Single Ladies" to "Sorry." Come dressed in your Sasha Fierce-est, or just your ugly sweater best. All are welcome. 18+. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$12/\$14 at the door. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER





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SATURDAY 12.24

JEWBILEE 2016

7TH ST. ENTRY

Christmas Eve falls on Saturday this year, which means downtown Minneapolis most likely won't be packed tonight. However, if you're looking for a bit of fun, TC Jewfolk's Jewbilee is offering a mix of music and comedy at 7th St. Entry. Taking the stage will be rockers Holy Moly, folk jammer Dan Israel, Planet Plookey, and the Lone Jew and the Party Crashers. Comedians who hope to make you laugh include Dan Mogol, Sidney OxBorough, and Robert Fones. 18+. 7 p.m. \$3-\$5. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SUNDAY 12.25

HOLIDAY STARAOKE KARAOKE

TRIPLE ROCK SOCIAL CLUB

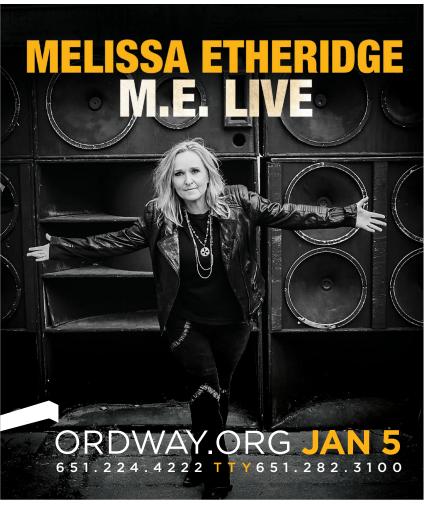
You've opened the presents, kissed grandma on the cheek, gorged on dinner, and helped assemble the toys. If you're still going strong in the energy department, now it's time to head out of the house for some late-night fun. One place sure to be a blast is the Triple Rock, which will once again be hosting Staraoke Karaoke. Bring your rowdy cousins, invite your friends, and plan your song, as karaoke host ARZU has a book of options that include classic punk anthems, heavy metal shriekers, holiday treats, and some good old hiphop bangers. Order up a round of liquid courage, be it booze or beer, or stick with pure sugar and caffeine to keep the party rolling along. Either way, the caroling will be untraditional here. 21+. 9 p.m. Free. 629 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-333-7399. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 12.27

FUCK 2016

TURF CLUB

Let's be real: 2016 has been pretty messed up. Between senseless acts of violence, the passing of cultural icons, and the batshittiness of the election, the majority of people are ready to just plow through this month and get on to the new year. To help give 2016 a proper farewell, Rana May and Drew Janda will host Fuck 2016, a comedy roast of the past 12 months at Turf Club. During a night advertised as full of "laughing, crying, and trying to move the fuck on," May and Janda will give the past 365-day period the absolute beating it deserves, all while trying to laugh at some of the sheer horror we've been exposed to this year. DJ Papersleeves will also spin jams from the musical legends we lost in 2016. Whether they're covering serious topics that changed the way we act as a society or examining who thought we needed a second Bad Santa movie, this night will be a nostalgic trip through the saddest, strangest, and most cringeworthy moments. One bright spot is that the event will serve as a fundraiser for Hunger Solutions Minnesota, helping to feed those in need. You can't escape your past, but you can laugh right in its face this week before starting fresh in 2017. 21+. 7:30 p.m. \$4. 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. —PATRICK STRAIT









RESTAURANTS

BOROUGH: Special five-course dinner for \$75/person created by executive chef Michael DeCamp. Reservations required. 730 N. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-354-3135.

DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB & RESTAURANT: Two shows with Davina & the Vagabonds at 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Early show (\$128) includes five-course tasting menu included in ticket price, late show (\$94) features a la carte menu, midnight toast, and \$20 food and beverage credit. 1010 Nicollet Mall. Minneapolis: 612-332-5299.

GYST FERMENTATION BAR: Bubbles and bites from around the world, featuring champagne pours every half-hour, with meat, cheese, and chocolate boards available, and a special NYE Mother Board curated by the GYST team. \$75. 25 E. 26th St., Minneapolis; 612-758-0113.

MARIN RESTAURANT & BAR: Four-course dinner priced at \$50 per person for first seating and \$75 for second seating, with wine pairing options for \$30. Dance party follows at 10 p.m. featuring DJ Shiek, with complimentary midnight champagne toast. Reservations required. 901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612.252.7000.

ST. GENEVIEVE: Special New Year's Eve fivecourse tasting menu for \$80, with wine pairings available, extended champagne selection, and Gatsby-style NYE champagne party for \$45 starting at 10:30 p.m., featuring two glasses of champagne, a glass to take home, hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment. With '20s and '30s cocktail attire encouraged. Reservations required. 5003 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-353-4843.

SURLY BREWING COMPANY: Special New Year's Eve beer dinner at Surly's Brewer's Table, featuring specially selected beers expertly paired with each serving of their five-course dinner for \$125 per person. Reservations required. 520 Malcolm Ave. SE., Minneapolis; 763-999-6526.

HOTELS

HEWING HOTEL: New Year in the North Loop package starts at \$389, featuring early access to New Year's Eve Party with live music from Viva Knievel, valet parking, two complimentary drink tokens, and special hangover kit. 300 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis, 651-468-0400.

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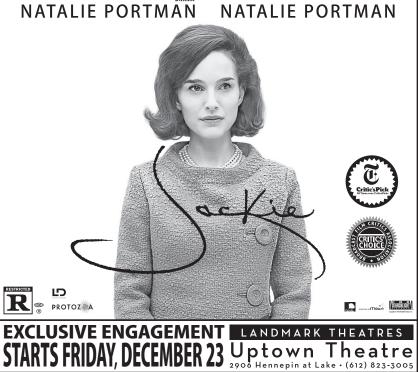
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COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTMAS

La Natividad brings people together for the holidays



COURTESY OF IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST

BY JAY GABLER

his season, many people have found it tough to get in the Christmas spirit. At the end of abrutal year, *La Natividad* serves as a glowing reminder that faith, cheer, and hope aren't just fuzzy feelings: They inspire concrete actions that are needed now more than ever.

An annual holiday tradition at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, *La Natividad* is co-presented with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which hosts a soup social after every performance. That's where audiences end up after following Maria and José on their bilingual journey to Bethlehem, by way of a Mexican restaurant and a showdown in the street.

Diners at Lake Street's Las Mojarras Restaurant look on as *La Natividad* begins with the Annunciation: Maria (a role shared between Vianey Occelly Pena Torres and Esther Ouray) is visited by a procession of winged cherubs, led by dancer Rebekah Crisanta and followed by the first of many awe-inspiring puppets in the company's signature oversized style. This one is the Angel Gabriel (Greg Leierwood), whose moon-shaped head indicates his heavenly provenance.

The show then moves to the nearby Jigjiga Center, where an initially skeptical José (a small puppet) struggles with his newfound responsibilities. After that, the audience walks down to the Avalon Theatre (In the Heart of the Beast's home), where kids bearing stars wake the shepherds and share the good news. Three wise ones (more large puppets) arrive, and meet the hateful King Herod (Paul Robinson).

As Maria and José (now full-sized)

make their way down 15th Avenue, they're stopped by Herod and his soldiers, intent on sealing their border. The pasty-white king, though, is overwhelmed by a crowd carrying a BIENVENIDOS banner, and the Holy Family are ushered into St. Paul's to be greeted by a host of animals in puppet form.

The show is a strange and wonderful experience, with live music by several instrumentalists and an angel choir pervading the alternately somber and silly proceedings. Directed and designed by Sandy Spieler, *La Natividad* is truly a community celebration. Dramaturgically, it may be lumpy (the Jigjiga interlude, for example, is an odd and talky detour), but its rough edges are part of its charm.

It's also a distinctly theatrical take on the Christmas story. The company's large puppets, with their haunting expressions and gentle movements, have a singular presence; and the joy of the performers,

LA NATIVIDAD

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and MaskTheatre 1500 E. Lake St., Minneapolis 612-721-2535; through December 22

diverse in age as well as ethnicity, is palpable. This month's polar vortex conditions only add to the magic, turning up the contrast between the bleak street scenes and the warm indoor episodes.

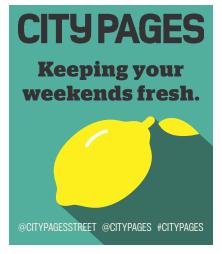
The actual baby who played Jesus on Sunday night deserves a special Ivey for summoning what can only be described as an authentically beatific glow. As the kids and the puppets and the singers and the audience swirled into a boisterous dance that filled the St. Paul's sanctuary, the infant looked down from Maria's arms, beaming in delight at just how wonderful the world suddenly seemed to have become.













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A SONG TO REMEMBER

Concussions damaged the mind of ex-Gopher Ben Utecht, but now music is helping him reclaim his memories

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

en Utecht is well-versed in worstcase scenarios.

The former University of Minnesota tight end knows that 40
percent of ex-NFLers suffer from chronic
traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, a degenerative brain disease caused by repeated
blows to the head. He knows that CTE often
dovetails into dementia, and that NFL vets
are four times more likely to die of ALS
or Alzheimer's disease than the general
population. Even though science is only
beginning to understand the long-term
effects of repeated trauma to the human
brain, Utecht knows his situation is dire.

Five concussions in four seasons. Despite a five-year NFL stint that included a 2007 Super Bowl win with the Indianapolis Colts, Utecht's NFL legacy is not tabulated in receptions, yards, or touchdowns. This is the grim statistic that defines his career as a professional football player. The concussions forced Utecht to retire in 2009 at the age of 28. By the time he was 30, he was already experiencing drastic memory loss.

"I left the NFL and had to Post-it note everything," Utecht, 35, says. "It was hard for me to remember tasks that my wife would give me. I used to be able to remember schedules easily, but then it became a nightmare."

Following his retirement from the NFL, Utecht turned back to a passion he's had since the age of five: music. The son of a Methodist minister and a classical soprano, Utecht has always balanced his athletic pursuits with a penchant for song. At Hastings High School, he was a three-sport athlete and a member of the glee club. During his last professional season with the Cincinnati Bengals, he released his self-titled debut album, and after the Bengals released him, Utecht moved to Nashville to try to crack into the inspirational gospel scene.

You might expect the 6-foot-6,245-pound Utecht to have a voice to match his meaty stature. He looks like he could conjure a baritone deep enough to rumble the plates in the china cabinet. But his voice comes out in big, earnest peals. It's churchy but instantly engrossing — powerful, though not strong enough to protect it from the



JON EVANS (CLARITY FILMS)

damage of a lifetime of helmet-to-helmet contact.

In 2011, Utecht was invited on a 32-show tour with adult contemporary pianist Jim Brickman. At the time, he was having difficulty retaining new information. During the shows, he played with a lyric sheet taped to the floor.

"Remembering songs that I'd sing over and over again was difficult," Utecht says. "That's where my fear comes from. The reality that we're seeing in NFL veterans is where my fear comes from."

As Utecht's anxieties about his memory mounted, he penned a somber ballad apologizing for the grim day he foresaw: when he could no longer remember the names of his wife and four daughters. The first line of "You'll Always Be My Girls" became the title of his memoir, Counting the Days while My Mind Slips Away, released in August.

The book chronicles Utecht's mortifying journey to reclaim his mind from the fog of CTE, and its opening salvo is an unhindered punch to the heart.

"Your relevance as a human really only resides in what you can remember," Utecht says. "Everything that makes me relevant as a husband and a father comes from memories. Here I am at the end of the first chapter

holding my fourth daughter and thinking, 'Gosh, I hope the worst doesn't come.' That's not an easy place to get to."

But the book does not end with the despair of the first chapter. When he began Counting the Days, Utecht didn't know whether the degeneration of his mind was reversible or not. He eventually discovered brain-training company Learning Rx. Utecht says the tutoring center, which has been sued by the Federal Trade Commission for misleading advertising claims, has helped restore some of his neurological functions.

Utecht enrolled in a 100-hour cognitive testing program, devoting 90 minutes three days a week to Learning Rx's intensive tests. It started with rudimentary tasks like remembering colors and the position of numbers on flash cards, and progressed to situational mathematics and high-order sequencing. Each trial was set to a metronome. Utecht's replies had to fall in time with the clicks in order to register as correct, gradually rebuilding his memory at a rate of 120 beats per minute.

"The way that the neuroplasticity of the brain has responded to the training has been incredible," he says. "It's significantly helped my short- and long-term memory. I'm talking taking it from the 12th percentile according to my neuro-psych evaluation to the 70th and 90th percentile."

This month, Utecht will join legendary Twin Cities soul singer Mick Sterling as part of a 14-show homage to the Christmas music of Andy Williams and Bing Crosby. It's a fitting reintroduction point for Utecht, whose holiday collection *Christmas Hope* was nominated for a 2012 Dove Award — aka the Christian music Grammys. Both Sterling and Utecht envision the series — which continues Wednesday at St. Paul's James J. Hill Center — as being an annual traveling show in the vein of Mannheim Steamroller. Such ambitions might not have been possible if not for the therapeutic power of music.

"The thing that makes Ben so unique is that he took [his] issue and decided to use music to help," Sterling says. "A lot of people play football their whole lives and that's it. He had the ability to sing, and I'm sure it saved him. In all facets of his life."

Utecht says that singing, along with braintraining exercises, has improved his short-and long-term memory drastically. Thanks to the musical construct of rhythm, he believes his mind is no longer slipping away. Sterling proposes that music has a "mystical" quality that made the recovery possible, but Utecht contends the link between rhythm and his improved neural pathways is not merely an act of providence.

"Music is used as a form of treatment in dementia patients," Utecht explains. "Emotion is connected to music. Music evokes emotion, and your brain stores those memories differently. It's really incredible."

This spring, Utecht will release his new album, Standing Strong. The LP is a proggy, 10-song testament that leans heavy on rock 'n' roll antecedents like Imagine Dragons and 30 Seconds to Mars. In terms of content, the record acts as a sort of sequel to Counting the Days While My Mind Slips Away and "You'll Always Be My Girls." Where the book and the single confront the daunting reality of a worst-case scenario, Standing Strong is a testament to the perseverance of not only the mind but also the heart.

"All of us have been concussed by life in different ways," Utecht says. "Trials are just a period of refinement. My message is that you have the opportunity to allow the trials that you go through to define you."

• **Trial**: The provided HTML is a support of the strial of the st



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fri : december 23 7pm: laura and sean's movie and music trivia 10pm: said kelley

sat : december 24 christmas eve-we're open!!!

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DUMPSTAPHUNK

THE HOOK AND LADDER, THURSDAY 12.22 The wind chill is plummeting, holiday spirit is being sapped by treacly mall music, and Trump the Chump in Chief is lurking in the Dark Tower. A quick antidote for dire times might be some Dumpsta diving with one of New Orleans' funkiest bands. That's saving a lot, but Dumpstaphunk have ferociously funkified bloodlines: They're led by Neville scion Ivan Neville, son of Aaron, nephew of Art, buddy of Keith Richards, and a pretty badass Hammond B3 organist to boot. Also phlinging the Dumpsta phunk is cousin Ian Neville, playing some of the wiriest guitar this side of Leo Nocentelli; the two-bass onslaught of Tony Hall and Nick Daniels; and skinsmeister Alvin Ford Jr. Given their NOLA origins, Dumpstaphunk build on the greasy glory of second-line funk, but also tap potent grooves from James Brown, P-Funk, Sly, and Booker T and the MGs. Dumpstaphunk's last album, 2013's Dirty Word, sported such guests as Trombone Shorty and the Rebirth Brass Band. Locals Mark Joseph & the American Soul open. \$30.8:30 p.m. 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis; thehookmpls.com. - RICK MASON

THE BAD PLUS

DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB, THURSDAY-FRIDAY 12.22 & 23; SUNDAY-MONDAY 12.25 & 26

The Bad Plus initially established a rep as renegades who'd tackle deconstructed rock/pop tunes, resurrecting them as cutting-edge jazz. Covers of Nirvana, Black Sabbath, and Yes gradually gave way to equally audacious originals, along with a distinctive reading of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring. But on this fall's It's Hard, the world-trotting, locally bred trio of drummer Dave King, bassist Reid Anderson, and pianist Ethan Iverson returned to their iconoclastic roots with 11 reinvented nuggets by artists ranging from Kraftwerk to TV on the Radio to Barry Manilow. So the band's annual Christmas week residency at the Dakota should jingle plenty of familiar but wildly twisted bells. Johnny Cash's "I Walk the Line," for instance, sports a requisite striding bass via Anderson. The rhythms, however, hiccup, shuffle, slide, slow, and speed up, spewing tangential curiosities along the way. Kraftwerk's "The Robots" acquires a jaunty spirit and organic core via Anderson and King's muscular urgency. Prince's "The Beautiful Ones" retains the lush emotionality of the original while negotiating spiky angularity. Meanwhile, BP's version of Ornette Coleman's "Broken Shadows" is strikingly nuanced and introspective. \$45 at 7 p.m. \$40 at 9 p.m. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-5299. - RICK MASON

PUFF PUFF PASS TOUR 2 FEAT. SNOOP DOGG

MYTH, FRIDAY 12.23

Last time we saw Snoop Dogg 'round these parts, he roared into Soundset 2013 as his Rastafied Snoop Lion persona (mercifully, he played a medley of classic Snoop jams). Since then, the silky-flowing G-funk legend has added predictably wacky extracurriculars to his stacked rap résumé, including induction into the WWE Hall of Fame and a brand-new cooking show with Martha Stewart, VH1's Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party. Musically, the 45-year-old born Cordozar Broadus Jr. has issued two post-Lion albums: the Pharrell-produced *Bush* in 2015 and July's Beyoncé-inspired Coolaid, his 14th full-length. Snoop's current Puff Puff Pass Tour 2 is the smoky successor to his 2001 jaunt that later spawned a concert film. This time around, he'll be joined by '90s hip-hop hitmakers Bone Thugs-N-Harmony ("Tha Crossroads") and Warren G ("Regulate"), plus former Death Row Records affiliates Tha Dogg Pound and DJ Quik. Expect the Doggfather to tout the merits of THC (he invests in a weed company) and possibly diss President-elect Donald Trump, whom he's described as a "punk-ass." 18+. 6 p.m. \$64.50-\$200. 3090 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood; 651-779-6984. - JAY BOLLER

CHANCE YORK AND BIG CATS!

ICEHOUSE, FRIDAY 12.23

Chance York (aka Slim Chance) first became familiar to Twin Citians as a member of Crunchy Kids. These days, as a solo artist, the honest and introspective Minneapolis rapper is closer than ever to fulfilling his potential. In April, a month before Crunchy Kids dropped their gorgeously produced, live instrumentation-enhanced Crop EP, Chance came through with his first solo effort, the brief but effective Fed and Famished EP. Co-produced by York and Crunchy Kids member Eric Mayson, it's a showcase for Chance's dense lyricism and nimble flows, with an ever-present element of psychedelia that recalls Flying Lotus' hip-hop side project Captain Murphy. Chance's newest effort is Highest Self, a collaborative album with prolific Minneapolis producer Big Cats!. Fans got a taste of it last week with the quick, hazy song "God Body," and Friday's release show at Icehouse will officially toast the project. Chance and Big Cats! will be supported by ZULUZULUU members Greg Grease and DJ Just Nine. 21+. 11 p.m. \$8-\$10. 2528 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-276-6523. -MICHAEL MADDEN











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The Intern

He lied about hanging out with his ex-intern. Am I crazy for being mad?

'm having an issue with my boyfriend, and I don't know if I am the crazy, paranoid, controlling party here. We have been together for more than a year and a half. We had troubles early on because he has a low sex drive. It made me very insecure, and I think that's why, at the time, I became extremely jealous of his friendship with his very attractive intern. I fully owned up to my irrational jealousy. She eventually stopped working with him, and they haven't been in contact for over sex months. Fast-forward to the present. On Monday night, I asked my boyfriend what his plans were on Tuesday. (I am studying for law school exams, so I knew I wouldn't have time to spend with him.) Around 8:30 on Tuesday, he texted me and asked how studying was going, and I asked him again what his plans were. He told me he was going to meet an "old co-worker" at a bar for birthday drinks. I didn't think twice about it. Then, around 11:30 when I got in bed to relax, I saw on my Instagram feed that his old intern posted a photo of her birthday party at the bar. I became extremely upset, because instead of saying he was meeting HER for her birthday, he was intentionally ambiguous. I confronted him when he got home, and he admitted to being ambiguous to avoid a "freak-out." I told him that if he'd been up front with me, I would have been jealous but I would have also been mindful of my toxic feelings and not projected them onto him. I told him that as a result of how he handled it, I feel worse, I feel lied to, and I feel insecure. He acted like I was being ridiculous. He insisted it was a last-minute invite and he didn't want to cause any drama. We went to sleep, and I woke up feeling pretty much over it. But when he got into the shower, I looked at his phone and saw that she had actually invited him on Monday afternoon. So he lied about his plans on Tuesday, and he lied again when he said it was a last-minute invite. I don't want to control him, but I feel like I can't trust him now.

AM I CRAZY?



Dan Savage

Sex months? Interesting typo.

There's another way to read your boyfriend's ambiguity about Tuesday night: equal parts considerate and selfserving. Your boyfriend knew you had to study, he knew his ex-intern is a sore subject, and by opting for ambiguity he allowed you to focus on your studies. So that was maybekindasorta considerate of him. And since one person's "mindful of my toxic feelings" and "handling it" is another person's "freak-out" and "invasion of privacy," AIC, your boyfriend opted for ambiguity to avoid drama. And perhaps that was self-serving of him.

Want to prove that he didn't need to lie to you about spending time with his ex-intern? Retroactively bestow your blessing on Tuesday night's birthday drinks and stop raking him over the fucking coals for his thoroughly explicable actions. (They're so explicable, I just explicked the shit out of them.) Yes, he lied to you. But unless you're made of marshmallow fluff and unicorn farts, you've lied to him once or twice. Even the "most honest" people on Earth tell the odd harmless, self-serving white lie once in a while. If you want your relationship to last, AIC, you roll your eyes at the odd HSSW lie and move on. If you want your relationship to end, you do exactly what you're doing.

If your boyfriend hasn't given you some other reason to believe he's cheating with his ex-intern or anyone else, drop the Tuesday night/birthday drinks subject. I would also advise you to apologize for having "looked at his phone" while he was in the shower, which is both an asshole move and, yes, a sign that you might be the crazy, paranoid, and controlling one. And for the sake of your relationship, stop following the ex-intern on Instagram.

mail@savagelove.net

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage savagelovecast.com







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Dated: December 20, 2016 Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC The Wirbicki Law Group LLC, Chris Irk, Attorneys for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee

Christopher J. Motz MN Bar No. 0395547 The Wirbicki Law Group LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 33 W. Monroe St. Suite 1140 Chicago, IL 60603 Phone: 855-891-6777 Fax: 312-572-7823 WN14-0092 pleadings.mn@wirbickilaw.com

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SILENT KNIGHT

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Show rosters
- Scanned lines
- Norse god who carried a spear named Gungnir
- Now, in Nicaragua
- 15 Small Cruise
- 16 Thinker Descartes
- Vision-correcting procedure
- In need of rain 18
- Female choir voice
- Uprising over a tax on dark beers?
- 23 Slugabed
- 24 Light touch
- Glance from "Rocky Horror" actor Tim?
- Depressing comments? 31
- Late lunchtime 34
- 35 Conquistadores' quest
- 36 "Westworld" actress Rachel Wood
- 37 Best Costume at a Halloween party, e.g.?
- 41 Singer-songwriter Vile 42 Perry Ellis product
- 43 Alpine peak
- Pigs' hangout 44
- Actress Hathaway with 45 not enough money?
- 48 Revolutionary doctor
- Twin Falls st.
- Those who know everything about philosopher Immanuel?
- Off base?: Abbr.

- Spooky movie genre
- Sports bureau
- Not recorded
- Comical "Dame" 63
- "Crime" sound
- Table insert Flip-flop digits
- Red state?

Down

- 1 Nev. neighbor
- Character that was the basis for Captain Hook
- Just meh
- Colored corn cereal
- Drink that begins by placing a shot on two chopsticks
- Grunt's group
- Untouched
- Bed with a mobile
- Delivery entrance, often
- 10 Sonicare rival
- 11 Meat shop
- Gung-ho about 12
- Like some '80s clothing
- Capek play that coined the word "robot"
- "Mighty ___ a Rose"
- 25 Makes dinner
- Full-length
- 27 Second take
- Lend, as some money
- Participation trophy recipient
- Tulsa sch.
- "___ From the Bridge" (2016 Tony winner for

- Best Revival)
- 32 Expediency
- Mean face 33 Does wrong
- 38 Alternative to Wi-Fi
- 39 Cruise port, briefly
- 40 Thin cigar
- 45 Alternative to ze or xe
- Bachelorette party favors
- Modern-day outlets for unknown bands to get their music out
- 19-Across's staff header
- Umn's decision 50
- 51 Kid's scrape
- Explosion in space
- 53 Heading for a list of jobs
- "Gimme" 54
- SpaceX CEO Musk
- Sign of engagement 56
- Meat seasoning
- Knight's title ... or what must be silent to understand the theme

Last Week's Answer

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